

WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending November 4, 2001

WEEK IN BRIEF:

Potato Harvest Completed
Wholesale Christmas Tree Harvest Underway

FIELD CROPS

Winter wheat seeding was completed with warm temperatures and timely precipitation greatly improving chances of adequate plant growth and development. Potato harvest was completed while carrot harvest wound down. Christmas tree growers began harvesting trees for shipment to Southern markets. Demand was very high for Noble and Grand fir trees while Douglas fir inventories remained plentiful. Turfgrass producers on the westside of the state were unable to mow or harvest fields due to the large amounts of precipitation received during the week.

LIVESTOCK

Much needed rainfall last week helped to improve range and pasture conditions. Some pasture land started to green up, but with cooler temperatures on the way there is limited time remaining for improvement. Range and pasture conditions were 7% very poor, 45% poor, 40% fair, and 8% good. Livestock owners were feeding supplemental hay.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Rain showers across the Yakima Valley last week set back producers trying to wrap up apple harvest activities. Some Fuji and Pink Lady varieties still remain to be picked. Organic truck gardeners reported excellent demand for their vegetables at the Olympia Farmers Market. U-Pick pumpkin operations reported record-breaking sales in Thurston County.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
4.3	4.8

Soil Moisture and Supply				
Soil Type	% Acreage			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	2	30	68	-
Subsoil	13	51	36	-
Irrigation Water	-	-	100	-
Hay and Roughage	-	5	95	-
VS=Very Short, SH=Short, AD=Adequate, S=Surplus				

Crop Progress				
Crop/Activity	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2000	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	100	99	100	99
Winter Wheat Emerged	94	91	99	96
Potatoes Harvested	100	96	98	99
Corn Harvested for Grain	40	25	43	44

Crop Condition *					
Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat	-	5	65	30	-
Corn	-	-	-	100	-
VP=Very Poor, P=Poor, F=Fair, G=Good, EX=Excellent					

* Crop conditions are a measure of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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COUNTY COMMENTS

WESTERN

Gray's Harbor: Heavy rainfall continued throughout the week, in a substantial flow increase in the Chehalis, Satsop, and Wishkah Rivers. For the most part, ag producers were limited to inside chores as a result of inclement weather. Christmas tree growers were slated to begin harvest early this week. Noble fir bough harvest continued at a brisk pace. Newly seeded pastures and cover crops on harvested corn fields were growing rapidly. Commercial dahlia growers continued to be surprised that cut flower sales continued due to a lack of killing frost. U-Pick pumpkin farms reported another excellent sales year. Livestock producers started feeding supplemental hay.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions remained the same as last week. The weather was still wet and on the cool side. There were no reports of any unusual situations or crop damage.

Thurston: The distant whining of power saws echoed across the rural landscape, as Christmas tree

growers began harvesting trees for shipment to Southern markets. Both Noble and Grand fir trees appeared to be sold out, but Douglas fir inventories remains plentiful. Wholesale prices of Noble and Grand fir are very good due to a limited inventory. Heavy rainfall throughout the week quickly replenished low water levels in both the Chehalis and Nisqually Rivers. U-Pick pumpkin farms reported record breaking sales adding up to a very good year. Livestock owners were feeding supplemental hay. Turfgrass growers were unable to mow or harvest fields due to saturated fields. Organic truck gardeners continued to report excellent demand for vegetables at the Olympia Farmers Market. Cut flower growers were pleased that warm temperatures and limited frost have extended their growing season, resulting in increased sales.

Whatcom: Apple and corn silage harvest continued. No new crop losses were reported for the week.

CENTRAL

Grant: Irrigation season ended. Irrigated wheat planting continued. Carrot harvest was progressing. Tree fruit nursery stock was being dug. Pink lady apple harvest continued. Fuji apple harvest was finishing up.

Yakima: Precipitation and warm days during the week will go a long way to helping winter wheat establish brace roots and improve fall growth. Overall, the winter wheat was in mostly fair

condition, topsoil moisture was adequate, and subsoil moisture was still short to very short.

Yakima (2nd Report): Rain showers were received early in the week, hindering apple harvest operations. Apple harvest was complete for most orchards in the area, with a few Fuji and Pink Lady apples still coming in.

EASTERN

Asotin & Garfield: Welcomed rains came on Monday and Tuesday for most areas in the two counties. Much of the wheat that was “dusted in” had started to emerge, but cheatgrass and goatgrass will be a problem, since there was not a chance to get control of it prior to seeding. The majority of seeding has been completed. Pasture and rangeland started to green up, but will provide very little growth this fall. Many pastures will need to be rested until next spring due to the drought this past year.

Lincoln: Precipitation and warm weather conditions has greatly benefitted winter wheat. Improved plant growth will help winter survival. Overall, the winter wheat was in fair condition, topsoil moisture was adequate but subsoil moisture was still in short supply.

Lincoln (2nd Report): A nice rain was welcomed by all agricultural producers this past week. There were some strong winds at times. Pastures were still in need of precipitation. The winter wheat looked good despite lack of moisture. Some of the continuous cropped ground was still being seeded. The mild temperatures have been favorable.

Whitman: Fieldwork was limited by rain showers during the week. Crop and pasture conditions improved as a result of recent rain, although decreasing daylight hours and cooler conditions will limit pasture growth this late in the fall.

WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS

November 5, 2001

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	32	53	46	0	0	-7	0	0	1.12	0.10	5	6.88	0.94	116	26
Everett	40	59	50	3	6	-1	0	0	0.44	-0.51	5	4.92	-0.87	85	29
Hoquiam	36	54	48	-3	3	-11	0	0	1.46	-0.52	5	6.59	-4.03	62	25
Kelso	39	59	51	3	13	4	0	0	0.62	-0.62	2	4.21	-2.70	61	19
Olympia	32	55	48	4	6	6	0	0	1.23	-0.28	5	4.24	-3.23	57	20
Seattle-Tacoma	37	55	49	1	3	-4	0	0	0.95	-0.14	5	3.91	-1.85	68	26
Shelton	31	56	47	-1	2	-5	0	0	1.58	-0.34	5	8.43	-0.87	91	25
Tacoma	32	56	49	2	7	0	0	0	0.86	-0.27	4	1.67	-4.21	28	14
Vancouver	40	59	51	4	16	9	0	0	1.44	0.38	5	4.17	-1.63	72	21
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	24	61	41	-1	0	0	0	0	0.38	0.17	2	0.76	-0.41	65	8
Omak	28	59	44	5	1	1	0	0	0.41	0.13	3	1.01	-0.84	55	9
Stampede Pass	28	52	37	4	0	0	0	0	2.73	0.49	5	17.00	5.74	151	30
Wenatchee	32	62	45	2	0	0	0	0	0.16	-0.03	2	0.25	-0.72	26	4
Yakima AP	28	63	44	0	0	-1	0	0	0.33	0.17	3	0.51	-0.46	53	6
NORTHEAST															
Colville	27	63	44	6	4	4	0	0	0.38	-0.07	2	1.90	-0.75	72	13
Deer Park	32	59	45	5	0	0	0	0	1.00	0.57	4	3.30	1.06	147	20
Spokane AP	33	61	45	5	0	0	0	0	0.99	0.62	3	2.36	0.42	122	17
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	30	59	45	2	0	-7	0	0	0.37	0.21	3	0.65	-0.25	72	8
Moses Lake	31	60	44	1	0	-7	0	0	0.37	0.21	3	0.49	-0.41	54	8
Quincy	30	60	45	3	0	0	0	0	0.25	0.05	2	0.34	-0.69	33	5
Ritzville	28	62	45	4	0	0	0	0	0.51	0.23	3	1.10	-0.42	72	10
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	36	65	48	1	10	-4	0	0	0.35	0.20	3	0.56	-0.28	67	7
Pasco	33	67	48	0	12	1	0	0	0.33	0.12	3	0.61	-0.40	60	6
Pullman	36	62	48	6	3	2	0	0	0.85	0.36	3	2.73	0.02	101	13
Walla Walla AP	38	64	48	0	10	-4	0	0	0.81	0.28	4	2.99	0.17	106	15
Whitman Mission	33	67	48	3	1	-6	0	0	0.61	0.27	4	2.44	0.53	128	13
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Coeur D 'A' AP	34	57	45	2	0	-2	0	0	0.89	0.31	4	3.15	0.00	100	22
Lewiston ID	42	61	50	4	4	-3	0	0	0.65	0.44	6	2.08	0.28	116	17

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2001

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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